

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph 0208 with the following amended paragraph:

--[0208] The sequence of the pIL253 plasmid, which has been disclosed as accession no. AF041239, on the Internet (see ~~http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/viewer.fcgi?db=nucleotide&val=277339~~), was analyzed, and a DNA fragment as shown in SEQ ID NO: 46 was synthesized so as to comprise the erythromycin resistance gene that can be used as a drug resistance marker in Lactobacillus, a promoter thereof, a terminator region, and KpnI sites at both ends. The solution having the composition shown in Table 1 was used to subject this DNA fragment to processing with a restriction enzyme at 37° C. for 2 hours, and the DNA fragment was purified, recovered, and then designated as a drug resistance marker sequence.

Table 1

10x Buffer L	10 µl
Synthesized DNA sequence (amount of DNA: 1µg)	30 µl
KpnI	10 µl
Purified water	50 µl
Total	100 µl--